

SIXPENCE

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- TROPICALIZATION -

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The preparation of radio and electronic equipment for tropical service is of fundamental importance today. Tropicalization, which is a specialised problem, may be defined as the design and protection of equipment for use in tropical areas. This equipment must frequently be operated intermittently in low, wet, damp lands where there is little direct sunshine and no cover, and where repair facilities or maintenance parts are not available. During the periods when the equipment is not operated there is considerable absorption of moisture and condensation takes place on non-absorbent surfaces.

High humidity causes three destructive forces to go to work on electronic equipment; rot and swelling, corrosion and fungus. The problem of combating these resolves itself into several associated problems.

1. Selection of components which do not readily absorb water.
2. Components which give minimum corrosion trouble.
3. Components not readily attacked by fungus.
4. Protective coatings of those parts subject to damage by moisture, corrosion or fungus.
5. Proper design which takes cognizance of the above problems.

In connection with the selection of components which do not readily absorb moisture, the following conclusions have been reached. Phenolic insulation should be molded where-ever possible. If this is not practical, a non-organic base laminate is preferred to cotton or linen. Water absorption can be reduced by thorough varnish impregnation before or after terminals are placed in a terminal board. Special care should be taken to see that fibre ends are sealed against moisture penetration. This helps to eliminate swelling, lowering resistance and growth of fungus.

Fibre, cotton, linen and wood have proved troublesome and in order to protect them against moisture, each strand must be saturated with a moisture-resisting fungus inhibiting impregnate after the material has been thoroughly dried. Ceramics are porous in an unglazed state, best treatment is to use a glazed finish.

SELECTING COMPONENTS... The selection of components to resist the inclusion of moisture is a more difficult

matter, but in general, it is concluded that all components should be insulated and coated with a mineral wax, preferably bearing a fungus-inhibiting material. Resistors of the power wire-wound type should be selected to be of maximum resistance to high humidity and salt water immersion consistent with the space allowed; the use of small diameter wires and exposed windings should be avoided.

CAPACITORS...Capacitors of the fixed mica type, molded in phenolic should be coated with a fungicide and high melting point mineral wax. Oil filled capacitors should be hermetically sealed; paper wrappers are virtually useless under high humidity conditions.

Transformers and chokes should be hermetically sealed. RF coils should be thoroughly impregnated and wound on forms which are suitably moisture resistant, such as molded phenolic or glazed ceramic.

Wire should be selected to have a high initial insulation resistance, so that under prolonged humidity exposure the insulation resistance will still exceed ten megohms.

It is difficult to form any conclusions as a result of the above discussions. Water absorption of materials and components can be stopped if care in selection is applied. The best rule would be, when in doubt, eliminate the material or component, if an acceptable alternate is available.

MINIMIZING CORROSION...The rules for minimizing corrosion are better established than any of the other rules in this discussion. Corrosion has been defined as an electrochemical destructive reaction between two dissimilar materials. Since two unlike surfaces and a conducting medium are necessary for most corrosion, perhaps the simplest method of preventing corrosion is the coating of each surface. Some surfaces may be protected with what is known as a layer of protective salts which may sometimes be obtained in the manufacturing operation. In practice it is common to treat aluminium with anodic processes to give a protective salt on the surface. This means the formation of a chromate, sulphate or like salt on the surface.

An effective treatment of unlike surfaces would be as follows:- proper cleaning of the surface, priming and then painting, elimination of metallic inserts in an unlike metal. Study of types of atmospheres to be encountered and expected corrosion products.

The selection of materials and components, not readily attacked by fungus, is a little more difficult to define than any other problems already presented. Certain things we know, and these are few:- fungus grows in a moist atmosphere, fungus attacks certain metals to form organic salts; fungus grows in confined atmospheres; fungus will attack rough surfaces.

FUNGUS GROWTH...Elimination of components which tend to absorb water can now be seen to be important as a means of preventing fungus. Bare metal surfaces are not only subject to corrosion

but also attack by fungus.

Confined atmospheres are the most difficult problems to solve. Compact light-weight equipment makes necessary the very thing which contributes to the equipments failure: confined atmosphere which are good clinging places for fungus. Points of concentration of fungus are lacing of wire, switch contacts, motors etc.

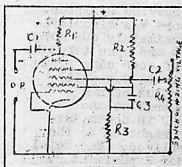
These points of growth can be best eliminated by proper design. Selection of material and components and the proper protective coatings can also help. These coatings, basically, involve use of fungus inhibitors such as phenyl mercurial or chlorinated phenol in carriers such as phenolic varnish vinyl varnish or the like. The actual coating may either be sprayed or brushed onto the component. If sprayed, masking of certain components which must have a bright surface will of course be necessary during the spraying operation.

CIRCUIT DESIGN... Critical, high-gain circuits perform well in a laboratory set-up but do not perform satisfactorily in the field. The use of high resistance grid leaks in high gain amplifiers is one of the best examples of this. For instance under high humidity conditions a five megohm resistor will behave more like a three megohm resistor. Again, high Q coils in RF circuits will have a high Q only as long as no conducting film shunts the coil. Then the Q will drop considerably.

" This type of reasoning would outlaw some of our highly developed circuits of today, if it were carried to its utmost. But the less critical the circuit, the fewer the parts, the more careful choice in the selection of parts and material---the longer the equipment will last.

...oOo...

ONE TUBE FREQUENCY DIVIDER



In most multivibrator circuits used for frequency division, at least two tubes are employed in the multivibrator and an additional tube is required to isolate the multivibrator from the output circuit load. In an article in a recent issue of "Wireless World" a circuit to do the above job and using only one tube is described.

As shown in the accompanying circuit a hexode oscillator circuit is used with the synchronizing voltage fed to the No. 4 grid. The degree of this voltage is regulated by the potentiometer R4 while the coupling condenser is so chosen that its capacity is approximately one tenth that of C3. The oscillation frequency of the uncontrolled multivibrator is determined by the time constant of the resistance and capacity in the oscillating circuit. By using a hexode, it is possible to utilize the electron-coupled plate circuit for external coupling purposes. Thus R1 serves as the plate load and C1 as the output coupling capacity.

FEDERAL HEADQUARTERS

-- A Review of Activities in N.S.W. 1941-1944 --

Early in 1941 the question of the location of Federal Headquarters was discussed at length at New South Wales Divisional Council Meetings. At this particular time Victoria was acting as Headquarters Division in addition to publishing the Magazine. It was felt that the Institute as a whole was asking a great deal of the Victorian Division to act as Federal Headquarters and to publish the magazine as well. It is to be stressed at this juncture that no request for relief had been received from VK3.

It was decided to approach Victoria and offer to relieve their burden by taking over Federal Headquarters. VK3 gratefully accepted this offer and the first meeting of the new Executive which consisted of Messrs. Joscolyno, McElrea, Peterson, Priddle and Ryan, with R. Priddle as Chairman, W. Ryan as Secretary, was held on 27th October '41.

One of the first decisions made was to make a survey of the workings of the various Divisions. This was found to be very disappointing. N.S.W. and Victoria were found to be the only really active Divisions. Western Australia maintained an active organisation which met occasionally whilst in the other States, the Institute was non-existent. As far as Queensland was concerned it had elected a comparatively new executive just prior to the war - the new Secretary just having received his licence, so very little blame could be laid at anyone's feet. It is fully realised that this state of affairs arose mainly due to Service inroads on personnel, but nevertheless there must have been some members available who could have maintained some form of skeleton organisation.

The next step taken was the compilation of a Service Register. Every ham listed in the P.M.G.'s List of Experimenters was circularised. In all 2018 circulars were sent out and approximately 50% were returned. This Census gave a wealth of information and upon tabulation, was published in the magazine. Quite a deal of good came from it in other ways. Amateurs realised that the Institute was still functioning and active Divisions benefited by an influx of new members. In addition, P. Allen VK7PA offered to represent the Institute in Tasmania and likewise E. A. Barbier 5MD in South Australia. 7PA has continued to act in that capacity right up to the present, but unfortunately 5MD's interest was shortlived. The total cost of the Census amounted to £15/11/9 or 1.85d per Experimenter.

The Executive was concerned with the position of those Amateurs in States where the Institute was inactive and various proposals were made and discussed as to the manner in which these Experimenters could be catered for. Several times the possibility of an all Australian organisation was discussed.

In other words, instead seven Divisions - only one. The main inducement at that stage to be a really worthwhile "Amateur Radio" to be the means of holding the Members interest.

Eventually the suggestion of one body was pigeonholed due to the lack of time necessary to organise, but it was decided that steps be taken to have the magazine made worthy of the oldest Experimental organisation in the world.

At this time New South Wales was publishing "The Monthly Bulletin," circulating among its own members. Both Victoria and New South Wales were approached with a view to an amalgamation. Eventually a satisfactory basis was reached and a worthwhile magazine - although not in printed form appeared.

Before leaving the Magazine, the retiring Federal Executive would like to congratulate the Magazine Committee, particularly Messrs. Hogan, Marsland and Anderson upon the splendid job that they have done often under difficulties - perhaps more often than not. It is particularly gratifying that sufficient advertising is now forthcoming to make certain that no loss is being incurred. In addition, the magazine goes to all Members of the Division, which as far as VK2 was concerned, meant quite a boost in circulation. New South Wales must not be forgotten for their part by making a monetary contribution to help offset the increased cost of the enlarged magazine as well as supplying notes and technical matter. A word of warning, "Amateur Radio" is the "Official Organ of the Wireless Institute of Australia," not of any one State. Recently some members of the Federal Executive had the pleasure of meeting Mr. "Bob" Anderson, Secretary of the VK3 Division and a Member of the Magazine Committee. Naturally the magazine was discussed and 3WY advanced the view that "the people who did the work on the magazine should decide what should be published." This is wrong. As the magazine represents the Australian Amateur, deep consideration should be given to the matter published. In the post war years the magazine will play a very important part and it must not be permitted to develop any outlook other than an AUSTRALIAN one.

J. Corbin 2YC also is to be congratulated for his efforts in making the "Khaki and Blue" subsequently changed to "Slouch Hats and Forage Caps," pages, the most popular and eagerly read section of the magazine. Strange to relate, the compilation of these pages has not always been easy. For some strange reason quite a number of Service Amateurs adopted a form of reticence quite foreign to the ilk. If some of the tributes paid to these pages by various visitors to VK2 Meetings and more than likely VK3 as well, quite a lot more chaps would have dropped a line to 78 Maloney Street, Eastlakes. There is still time yet!

A Prisoners of War Fund was organised by the Executive and no less than £42/19/- was collected. Unfortunately the majority of Australian P.O.W's are in Japanese hands, and it has been impossible to forward comforts to them. Several donations were made to A.R.C. Prisoners of War Fund whilst parcels and books have been despatched to Messrs. Campbell and Edwards. The balance of the account amounting £27/18/- is still on hand, and it is to be hoped that arrangements can be made in the very near future for its distribution.

During the latter part of 1942 a direction was issued by Security Service per medium of the Wireless Branch, stating that Sealed Containers in the possession of Experimenters were to be handed over to local authorities for safe keeping. This order created a furore in the Amateur ranks as very few containers had been packed sufficiently well for their removal. Application was made to the Chief Radio Inspector for an extension of time for lodgment and this was granted.

The China Amateur Radio League asked the co-operation of Federal Headquarters in obtaining a collection of Australian Qsl's for their Convention, to be held in Chungking. A collection of cards representative of all Australia States including New Guinea and Papua was made and safely reached its destination. The fact that Chinese Amateurs could hold a Convention in that war torn land speaks highly of their courage and tenacity of purpose. Congratulations XU.

During October 1943 New South Wales had acted as Headquarters Division for the statutory period of two years. Upon referring the question of location to the States or their representatives, all were unanimous that New South Wales continue to act. Following upon this advice, it was decided that an election of Officers be held. Messrs. Priddle and Gough both intimated that they were unavailable. Mr. Gough VK2NG had been elected to fill a vacancy caused by Mr. Josecelyno's resignation upon joining the Army. It was decided to place on record the retiring Executive's appreciation of the work performed by Messrs. Gough and Priddle. The new Executive consisted of Mr. F. P. Dickson VK2AFB Chairman, H.F. Peterson, VK2EP Vice President, W. G. Ryan VK2TI secretary, and Messrs. Fryar VK2NP and McElroa VK2UV Councillors.

In an endeavor to ascertain the views of Experimenters regarding the Post War ora and Essay Competition sponsored by the New South Wales Division was held by Federal Headquarters. The results were disappointing both from the point of view of the number of entries received, the quality and the very few original ideas expressed. In publicising the competition, quite a number of sub-headings were suggested. Most competitors wrote around these. Whilst this was flattering to the Executive, it was disappointing that very little originality was expressed! One.

important point where quite a deal of controversy could be expected, was the question of power. Every entrant agreed that 100 watts would be sufficient.

Perhaps the most important advance made by Experimental Radio in Australia took place in 1942 when official approval was granted for the use of Amateurs and their equipment as an arm of Civil Defence. Networks came into operation in New South Wales, Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania. Of these Nets the largest and most important was in New South Wales and was the only one called into action during an Emergency. Unfortunately VK 5, 6 and 7 Nets have now closed down whilst New South Wales is functioning on a reduced scale. However, out of these war time Nets have sprung organisations that will expand largely in the post war years, viz. the Bushfires Radio Networks in Victoria and New South Wales.

Unfortunately Victoria was unable to obtain permission to inaugurate a Net for A.R.P. purposes, but in recent months some headway has been made with the Forestry Commission and it is understood that stations will be in operation very soon. Victoria are to be congratulated upon efforts and their refusal to acknowledge defeat.

In New South Wales, Bushfires Emergency Radio is in operation and during the winter months the organisation will be expanded to meet demands of the forthcoming summer. A great difficulty to be overcome is lack of personnel in areas where they are needed.

During pre-war years many pleas were made for the use of the Amateur and his equipment during Flood and Bushfire Emergencies. Out of the A.R.P. Nets during the war this opportunity arose. Let us make certain that it is not permitted to slip away during the post war years.

The foregoing pages deal briefly with the activities of the Federal Executive during the past three years - years which have been the darkest in the history of civilisation. Despite this fact, every Member of the Institute will agree that the Executive has not been inactive and has kept the flag flying in an endeavor to make certain that a live organisation will be ready when the day comes for the lifting of the ban on Experimental transmissions in Australia. That day is very, very, rapidly approaching. The location of Federal Headquarters has been the subject of discussion at several recent Executive meetings. It was finally decided that the interests of Experimental Radio could best be served by having Federal Headquarters located in that State wherein the Director of Posts and Telegraphs had his office. The New South Wales Division endorsed these views and Victoria was asked to act as Headquarters

Division. VK3 have agreed and their term of office commenced on the first of March 1945.

What of the future? It is the prerogative of a retiring body to make recommendations to the newcomers. During the past year the possibilities of a Federal organisation with a paid staff or at least a paid Secretary have been discussed and the outgoing Executive are unanimous that if the Institute is to progress and take care of the influx of new Amateurs once the war is over, the present practice of a Division in each State will have to be departed from. It will be too much to expect any person acting in an Honorary capacity to devote the time necessary to do the work efficiently. It is not beyond the bounds of possibility, One thousand members at one guinea per annum would be a startling point, and if the post war Institute Membership does not exceed this figure it will be very surprising.

Again, with a permanent secretary or staff, the work of compiling and publishing the magazine would not be as difficult as it is to-day. The majority of the entrants in the Essay Competition were of the opinion that at least a permanent Secretary was an essential for the post war Institute. The A.R.R.L. and R.S.G.B. have a permanent staff. The N.Z.A.R.T. had decided on this step just prior to the outbreak of war. Must Australia lag behind?

Another wartime innovation of the retiring Executive was the publication of Notes in the magazine and prior to that, each Division received a copy of Executive Council Meeting Minutes. This practice should be continued. Do not let Federal Headquarters become a closed book to the majority of Institute Members. Tactics of that nature brought about the unfortunate happenings when Federal Headquarters was last located in New South Wales in 1937-38.

In conclusion the Federal Executive would like to thank all Divisions or representatives, particularly VK6 - who, nearly two thousand miles away set a splendid example - as 7 PA Peter Allan, for their splendid co-operation during the difficult years. To the incoming Executive, hearty congratulations and the hope that they will see Experimental Radio again active very soon in Australia.

On behalf of the Retiring Federal Executive,

W. G. RYAN, VK2TI, Retiring Secretary.

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THE TECHNICAL LIBRARY

MATHEMATICS ESSENTIAL TO ELECTRICITY AND RADIO....Lt. Nelson
M. Cooke and Dr. Joseph B. Orleans (New York) 1943...418
pages ... 24/-

The radio training programmes of the armed forces in the United States since Pearl Harbour have apparently necessitated the production of books concerning the technical and mathematical basis of radio communication, if one is to judge by the number of such books which have appeared during the past three years.

The book under review this month is representative of the better class works dealing with the mathematical angle and is intended for the student who has only a rudimentary knowledge of mathematics. The entire field is covered with reasonable adequacy from addition to quadratic equations. The former, one hopes, is included mainly for the sake of completeness!

Chapter headings are as follows:- Introduction, Literal Numbers, Addition and Subtraction, Multiplication, Division, Equations, Powers of Ten, Significant Figures, Units, Ohms Law, Series Circuits, Resistance, Wire Series, Special Products and Factoring, Fractions Equations containing Fractions, Ohms Law-- Parallel Circuits, Graphs, Sets of Linear Equations, Generator, Motor and Battery Circuits, Exponents and Radicals, Quadratic Equations, Kirchhoff's Laws, Logarithms, Applications of Logs, to Decibels and Transmission Lines, Angles, Trig. Functions, Tables of Functions, Solution of Right Triangles, Periodic Functions, Elementary Plane Vectors, Alternating Currents, Fundamental Ideas, AC Series Circuits, AC Parallel Circuits.

An Appendix rounds off the subject matter with tables of Mathematical Symbols, Greek Alphabet, Copper Wire Tables and Trig and Log Tables.

It is really surprising that so much has been fitted into just over 400 pages, yet there appears to be no evidence of skimping at any stage, and everything is well set out, with clear and adequate diagrams where necessary.

I would like to say that Lt. Cooke and Dr. Orleans have, between them, done a good job.

This book and all books reviewed in this page are supplied by courtesy of McGill's Newsagency, Elizabeth Street, Melbourne.

Alec. H. Clyno - Review Editor.

SLOUCH HATS & FORAGE CAPS

In wartime you will often see that the news of today is out of date, and often reversed tomorrow. Our column is no exception. Last month, for instance, I mention that Frank Hine 2QL is over at Port Pirie, but yesterday he rings me up and I find that in the meantime he goes from F/Lt to Sq Ldr, attends a school in the North, holds an appointment in VK4, and is on the way to a new job in the Northern Area somewhere. And he adds, I haven't discovered where McNaughton, 2ZH, is, as he is already posted from Mt. Gambier...Hi! 2QL reckons I'm getting old and can't keep up with modern speed, and from the above it looks as if he may be right.

The CO of the School Frank attended was Bob Chilton 2RC, while the class had its usual ham quota...Sq Ldr 3GU, F/Lt 4RM & P/O 4EA. Another Ham, Roy Stacey, 2HY, now a F/Lt., was attending another school in the same area. Roy has been in the R.A.A.F. since the beginning, but news of him has been very scarce.

Fred Lubach 4RF is still around Townsville, and apart from a little work for the Navy, he is designing an II tube super, and wondering how 813s go on 50 Watts. Apart from that he keeps an eye out for news for Amateur Radio. Bill Asplett visited him recently in between shifts at Townsville G.P.O.

Chief Telegraphist Kerkin VK2CT is now holding a very responsible position on H.M.A.S. Hobart.

Leo Myers 2KS who seems to have been just about everywhere since the War began, is now in a Naval Beach Unit and expects to meet a few of the "Honourable" Js in person soon...they tell me, Leo, the Yanks just about blast everything off the face of the earth near the landing...so here's hoping...2YC.

Sgt. Ackling...Australian Special Wireless Group...Australia... wouldn't it!!!, far better known as VK2PX has at last met some "Foreign" DX...in the shape of two VEs...4UY and 4KO. These two, say, there are more hams with them, and that one of them has often worked 2RA. In true missionary spirit 2PY gave them his Amateur Radio, so they could get in touch with the Division in any Capital city they might happen to be in...what a man...a WIA man...a WIA man, I mean...if only all VK Hams in such circumstances would do likewise.

Some of you know Walter Haynes...IF the war had waited two more months he would have a call but, alas, he only holds AACP no. 2404, Hi! He is P/O Radio Mechanic H.M.A. Radio School at Watson's Bay. As usual he has a Ham to keep him company...VK2NQ. Wal has been in the Navy for sixteen years now. He was on the Canberra from the time War was declared till she was sunk in the Solomons. During the three years he was on the "Canberra" they acted as escort to the AIF going to the Middle East, served in the South Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Bay of Bengal, Red Sea and Arabian Sea. She was in

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Singapore and the Dutch East Indies when things were pretty desperate ...so no wonder Wal has now gone more or less into retirement. But I believe he wants to go to sea again. Hi.

Con Bischoff 2LZ has returned to Townsville, and the study of telescopes. He tells me that Sq/Ldr Read CBE/3BE is yet another Ham to join the outfit, replacing Allan Heath, who has returned to VIM. Sgt. Kahn 4QA has also returned to their unit, while Norm Hart 4KO has been posted to Brisbane. What they want mostly up there is a VK7 to give them all States, Hi!

Lt. Norm Hannaford is now with 1st Aust. Beach W/Shops A.E.M.E. A.I.F. and in Feb was feeling pretty sorry to find himself still in VK. He was in the middle of leave in Melbourne when he was urgently recalled. As he says...he shot through VIS & VIB, they were to go at once...and here they are still...and all that leave lost. But he says that when we hear that the 7th Div., has been in action he will be in it too, as they go in with the first lot...but as he puts it.. "somebody has to go in first"....best of luck, Norm, om, in any case...2XC.

Another Ham who made my news feel a bit out of date was 2VN. He popped in the other day on his way out to Mascot aerodrome to arrange a plane back. Morrie's Dad is unfortunately very ill and he had just made a rush trip down from the Philippines....I think

he said it was under three days trip down here...two days leave at home and then straight back again. He looks very well and is the same old Morrie you all knew in prewar days in spite of the fact he has now reached the giddy heights of a Wing Commander.

The latest authentic information about Sgt M.R. (Snow) Campbell, VK3MR, comes from Bruce Mann VK3BM, in a letter card received by him. It is dated 1/10/44 and reads "This is my third letter to you since being on my confined tour! I very often think of Quambatook and the interesting time I spent with you, and I can't help but wish to hear how you all are keeping and what you are doing etc. (Bruce says apparently Snow hasn't received letters from him.) I have met quite a lot of chaps from the Swan Hill area and they know a lot of folks that we know. I am keeping very well and passing the time now practising our pet hobby! Cheers, good health to all."

Sgt. Keith Scott VK3SS now finds himself well up in the islands and sends us news of himself. He contacted a Lt. E.D. Worsham ex-VK3OX of Detroit Michigan who welcomed Keith as a Ham and took him out to their base G receiver site; which gave him an insight into their communications long range system. They are working teleprinter links only over their main links; WT even high speed they consider obsolete by many years. The receivers are double diversity in racks and cabinets, there being two or three pairs in each rack. They work on fixed frequencies, HF Osc and BFO are Xtal controlled. Tuning is possible over a limited range only by adjusting iron dust slugs in coils and IF's. When they move to another frequency they simply switch to another receiver. The teleprinter operates on a two tone system using FM sort of modified. Most elaborate and separate AVC channels maintain a constant signal strength of minus 6db. Filter circuits reject any frequencies other than the two selected tones, one used for mark and the other for space. They use lots of single wire rhombics on portable light steel lattice masts. Voltage regulator tubes are used extensively and they claim the receivers will maintain on correct pre-set frequencies for up to six months. That's the bare facts, says Keith "and she's a good show."

Expecting a perfect deluge of mail and telephone calls...yes the number is in the book...MUL092...and the QRA Jim Corbin, 78 Maloney St. Eastlakes...Mascot...I thank you all....Hi!

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FEDERAL HEADQUARTERS

Most readers will be aware by this time that Federal Headquarters has at the request of the New South Wales Division, been taken over by the Victorian Division. Officers elected by the Victorian Divisional Council being:- President Mr. R. Marriott VK3SI, Treasurer Mr. T. D. Hogan VK3HX; Secretary Mr. A. H. Clyne VK3VX, Councillors Messrs. A. R. Williams VK3WE and C. C. Quin VK3WG.

At their first meeting much time was spent in becoming familiar with their duties of office and studying the records forwarded by the outgoing Executive. A full report has been promised for next issue.

NEW SOUTH WALES DIVISION

At the March General Meeting of the Division, Members were informed that Council were at present discussing plans for a Post War Institute. Among many matters discussed was the question of Permanent rooms and the advisability of changing the Meeting night from the third Thursday. At the present time the W.I.A. Meeting clashes with that of the I.R.E. and as many Amateurs belong to both organisations, it is felt that different nights may mean larger attendances. It is realised, of course that the Institute has been meeting on the third Thursday for a decade or more, and Members will be asked to express an opinion before any change is made.

Members were informed that Major Don Knock was "again" a civilian and that Council had immediately availed itself of his Services by electing him to the position of Assistant Secretary. Don, who in pre-war days was Chairman of the U.H.F. Section is just as keen an amateur as ever, and he should be a tower of strength to the Institute in the days to come.

Federal Headquarters has now been transferred to Victoria after a period of three years in New South Wales. Every good wish is extended to Victoria and every offer of co-operation made.

Members will regret to learn that Ivon Baslue VK2TN underwent a serious operation recently and is at present an inmate of War Memorial Hospital, Waverley. Bob Fussell VK2SS is also having a bad spin. Members everywhere will join in wishing these old "Zero-Beaters" a speedy recovery.

BUSHFIRES NETWORK

Dubbo and Young are still carrying out Tests with their portables and a definite Practice Night has now been fixed. The Stations may be on any night in the week, but in order that other City and Country Amateurs may tune in to the transmissions, Friday night has been laid down as a definite Practice. Practices will commence at 8 p.m. and the frequency is 3115 kcw.

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EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION NETWORK.

It has been decided that N.E.S. will continue after the war and be known as the A.R.D.A. Air Raid Defence Arm. Radio is to play a much more important part. It is hoped that further details will be available next month.

In the meantime Network Stations will continue to practice on the first Friday of each month.

VICTORIAN DIVISION

Two meetings have passed since the last issue of the Magazine, and it is our usual custom to publish the calls of those attending the meetings, here we go:- VK3's JC, WY, JR, VX, YC, ZE, SG, NY, KN, UR, WQ, SQ, KJ, XC, IK, QS, SQ, ND, XK, HY, BQ, WF, XZ, WQ, VK2AIH, VU2EB. Messrs. Hibbert, Craig, Ridgway and Rimmer. April Meeting, VK4RM, VK3's VK, PJ, KE, XZ, EZ, BK, AG, JP, GW, SZ, QS, SQ, BC, XD, JC, WY, WQ, UR, AP, WC, KJ. Messrs Hibbert, Brooks, Rowe and Ridgway.

It will be noticed that DX put in an appearance at the March meeting in the person of Captain Cadell VU2EB, who during the course of the evening gave a humorous talk on Ham Radio as used in pre-war days in India.

A suggestion put forward at that meeting by one of the members interested in a gliding club was that it was intended by the Club to install ground to flight transmissions and they would welcome members of the Institute forming a roster to operate the gear. Those interested should contact the Institute Secretary who will pass on their name.

Unfortunately the movie show skeduled for the April meeting did not eventuate. Harry Kinnear 3KN apologises sincerely for this unfortunate happening, but through circumstances entirely outside his control his equipment became tied up and he was unable to make other arrangements. However, as soon as he regains control of his equipment he will put on the show. It is doubtful just when this will take place. It maybe at the May Meeting and again it may not be until the June Meeting.

As a result of the show being off, the meeting tuned itself into a discussion of Frequency Modulation, and what is more important a free discussion of post war aims, and quite a few very good ideas were put forward.

Once again the Laboratory Committee have passed a report to the Editor which reads - "These notes are claiming the attention of more and more readers...we have definite proof that three members now take the trouble to read beyond the heading. A few months ago our request for back issues of QST was noticed by 5CN, and now 3KN and 3B M have responded to the appeal for back issues of magazines published last month.

The preparation of plans for the re-habilitation of the library has been occupying our attention for some time, and these will be put into effect just as soon as the necessary finance can be secured by the sale of the motor generator set.

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